

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. Summary of the Amendment

By the current Amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend claims 1 and 10.
2. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. Claims 1 and 5-15 Are Allowable

Claims 1 and 5-15 are pending in the application. The Office Action purports to reject claims 1 and 5-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over “Ogasawara,” in view of “Lev” (the Office Action does not specifically identify “Ogasawara” and “Lev” other than providing the inventor names). However, the comments explaining the rejection make it clear that the Office Action intended to reject claims 1 and 5-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0026290 to Machida et al. (hereinafter “Machida”). For the reasons explained below, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a display device of an electronic apparatus which is used to set up a plurality of conditions for a process that is to be performed by the electronic apparatus. Claim 1 recites that the conditions are set through input operations. Claim 1 also recites that the display device includes determining

means for determining whether or not each of the conditions has not yet been set, and display control means for displaying notifying information indicating to what degree conditions remain to be set. Claim 1 recites that the notifying information includes a number that indicates how many of the conditions have not yet been set. Claim 1 also recites that the number of conditions corresponds to input buttons for setting those conditions. Claim 1 further recites that performance of the process is started when the number of conditions which have not yet been set reaches 0, the number being displayed by the display control means.

Claim 10 is directed to a display device. Claim 10 recites a display control means for displaying notifying information indicating to what degree conditions remain to be set, wherein the notifying information is the number of conditions that have not yet been set. Claim 10 also recites that the number of conditions corresponds to input buttons for setting those conditions. Claim 10 further recites that information for prompting an operation for starting performance of the process is provided when the number of conditions which have not yet been set reaches 0, the number being displayed by the display control means.

The Machida reference discloses a menu system for operating an electronic device such as a copy machine. Figs. 4-7 of Machida illustrate a typical set of hierarchical menus that are used to select certain values for copy conditions. In this embodiment, there are five top level menus for which values may be selected.

The five top level menu items appear along the left side of the display screen.

When a user selects one of those five items, a menu or input screen will be provided to the right, as illustrated in Figs. 4-7. The user is then able to select a value for the item.

For instance, in Fig. 4, the user has selected the copy job type button 116₁ to cause a menu of different copy job types to be displayed. The user can then push a button corresponding to the desired type of copy job. A user could go through each of the five top level items displayed on the left hand column to input various different values for those items that are to be used for a particular copy job.

Machida indicates that a copy job can be initiated once values or settings have been selected for the only the first, second, third and fourth top level menus. Selecting a value for the fifth top level menu, which is labeled as “other settings,” is optional.

Machida also indicates that the copy machine can be configured such that a user need not enter values or settings for any of the top level menus. As explained in Machida at paragraphs 165-168, when the user is presented with the input screen for the first top level menu, as illustrated in Figure 4, the user could simply push the button labeled as “initial setting” to cause default values to be selected for all of the first through fourth top level menus.

Moreover, Machida also indicates that the copy machine can be configured so that a default value or setting is automatically selected for some of the first through fourth top level menus. For example, at paragraph 183, Machida indicates that 100% may be automatically entered for the third top level menu setting for the magnification.

Still further, Machida indicates that once a copy job has been completed using a particular group of settings, the user has the option of re-using those settings for a subsequent copy job. In this instance also, the user would not need to enter values or settings for the first through forth top level items.

With the menu system disclosed in Machida, the user always knows when the copy machine has received enough information to begin processing a job, because once values have been determined for all the required settings (whether through manual or automatic entry), the user is presented with a "processing start frame," as illustrated in Figure 8. The user must then press the "start copy job" button on the processing start frame to instruct the copy machine to begin making copies. Whenever the user sees the processing start frame, the user knows that values have been either manually selected or automatically input for all required settings.

In addition, even when no initial or default values are automatically selected, and where the user is forced to make manual selections for each of the

first through fourth top level items, the user can readily see those top level items for which values have already been selected, and those top level items for which no value has been selected. Machida indicates that the top level items for which items have been selected will be displayed differently than the top level items for which no value has been selected. In Figures 4-7 of Machida, this difference is evident because the top level items for which a value has been selected are outlined in solid lines, and the top level items for which items have not been selected are outlined in dashed lines.

Moreover, Machida indicates that once a value has been selected for a top level item, the selected value will be displayed under the identifier for the top level item. If no value is shown under an identifier for a top level item, the user knows that a value has not yet been manually selected or automatically entered for that top level item.

To summarize, with a menu system as disclosed in Machida, the user always knows whether values have been selected for each required top level item because (1) the top level items are displayed differently once a value has been manually selected or automatically entered; (2) the actual selected or automatically entered value is displayed under each top level item identifier; and (3) the user is presented with the “processing start frame” having a start button, once all required values have been selected.

As explained above, claim 1 requires that the display device include display control means for displaying notifying information, where the notifying information is the number of conditions which have not yet been set. Claim 1 goes on to recite that the number of conditions corresponds to input buttons for setting those conditions.

Clearly Machida does not display a number indicating how many of the required top level values have not yet been set. Machida also does not display a number corresponding to the number of buttons which have not been used to set conditions. The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Machida so that Machida's display indicates the number of required values/buttons that have not yet been set. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As explained above, one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no reason to add a countdown number to the Machida display to indicate the number of required values/buttons that have not yet been set. Machida's input system and display provides a visual indication of how many required values have not yet been set, and Machida also presents the user with a "processing start frame" once all required values have been set. For these reasons, there is simply no reason to further add a countdown number, as recited in claims 1 and 10. Withdrawal of the rejection on these grounds alone is respectfully requested.

Moreover, in view of the fact that one of skill in the art would not have had a reason to add a countdown number to Machida's display, it is respectfully submitted that the only way to find a motivation for modifying Machida in this manner is through the improper use of hindsight, in view of Applicants' invention. Withdrawal of the rejection on these additional grounds is also respectfully requested.

Moreover, claim 1 recites that performance of the process is started when the number of conditions which have not yet been set reaches 0, the number being displayed by the display control means. And as explained above, the Machida device does not operate in this fashion. Instead, once the number of required conditions that have not yet been set reaches 0, Machida's device presents the user with the "processing start frame." The user must then press the "start copy job" button to cause the copy process to start. For this additional reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Machida. Claims 5-9 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons, and for the additional features which they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5-9 on these additional grounds is also respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that additional changes

would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /JOHN C. EISENHART/

John C. Eisenhart
Reg. No. 38,128

JCE/knh

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100